

Disrupting Citizenship

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Disrupting Citizenship

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IRSPM

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Roskilde University

Content

- The Classic Concept of Citizenship
- Digital Citizenship (D.C.)
- Political Citizenship in the Digital Age
- Main Issues
 - Political Participation
 - E-government
- Winding up



The Classic Concept of Citizenship

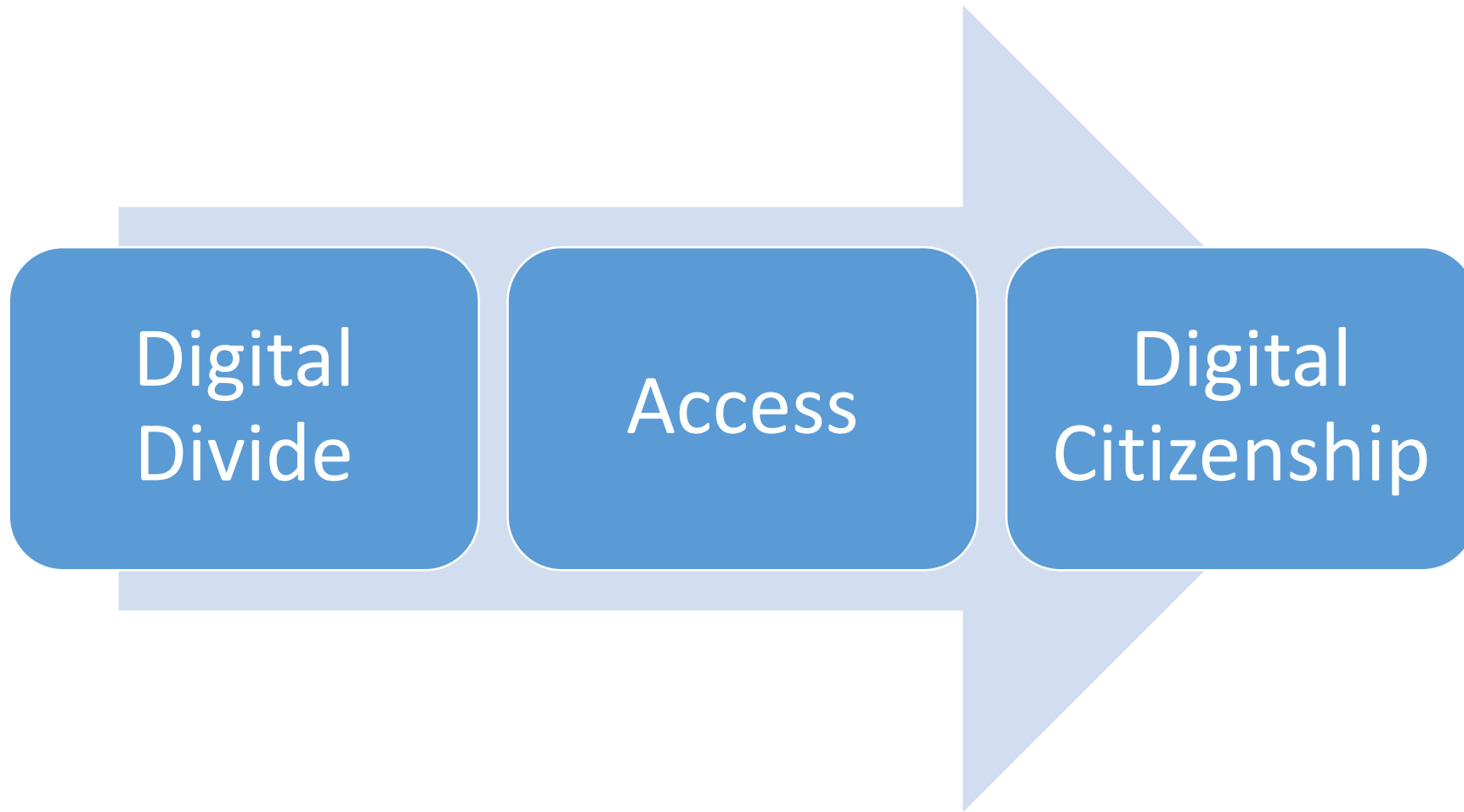
- The relation between the national state and the citizen
- Rights and duties of citizens within a national state
- **Civic Citizenship:** right to own property, to privacy. Duties to pay tax and serve the country
- **Political Citizenship:** right to vote, run for office, express yourself. Duties to stay informed and vote
- **Social Citizenship:** right to social benefits like education, health care, retirement pension. Duty to inform the authorities about changes in your social conditions

Disruption of the Classic Concept

- Digital technologies disrupts the classic concept of citizenship
- D.C. is not restricted to a relation between citizen and a national state – it is a global relation
- D.C. does not only include a horizontal relationship but also a vertical among citizen
- D.C. includes more dimensions



Digital Citizenship

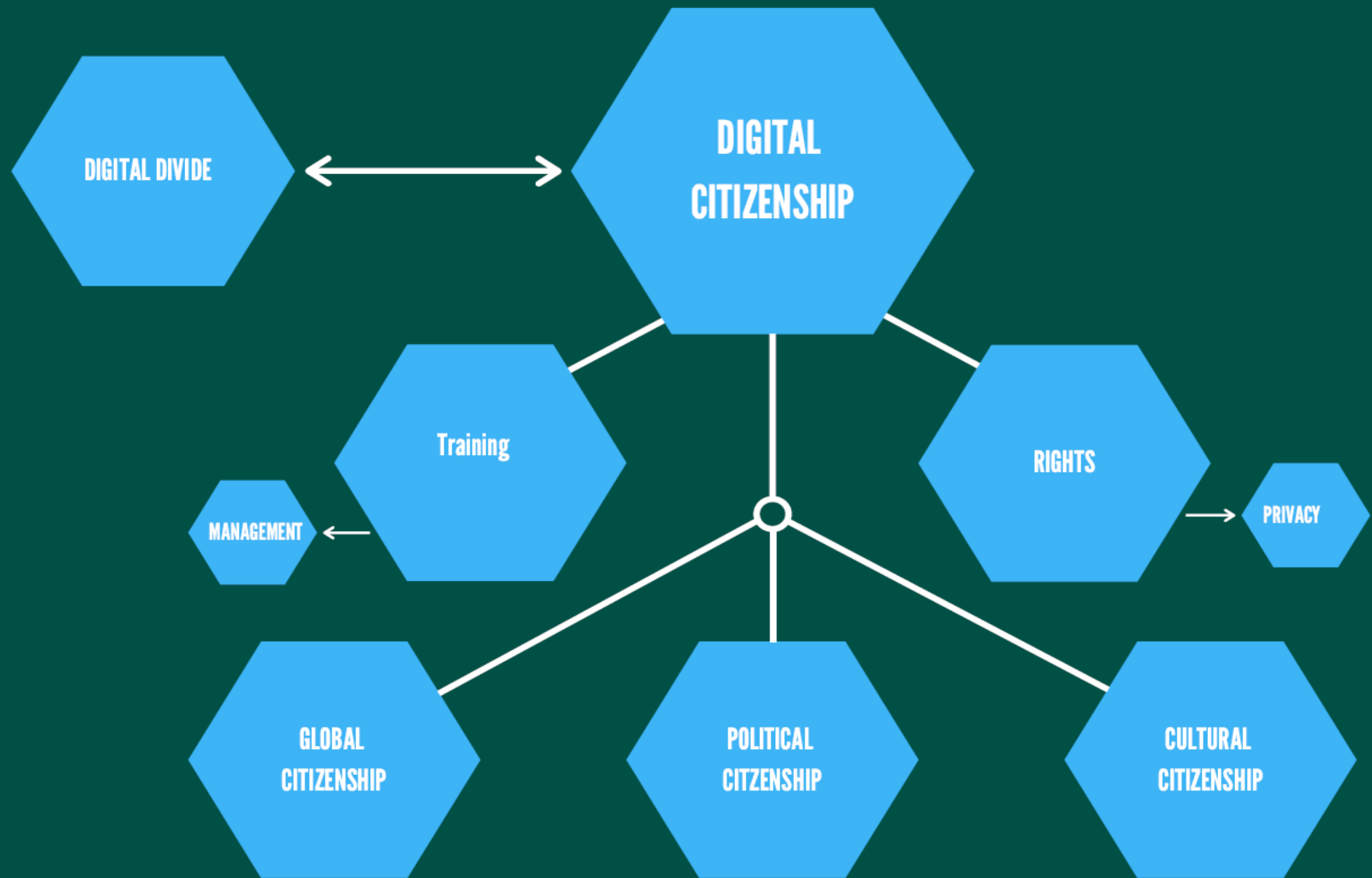


Early Definition of Digital Citizenship

“Digital citizens can be defined as those who use the internet every day, because *frequent use* requires some regular means of *access* (usually at home), some *technical skill*, and the *educational competencies* to perform tasks such as finding and using information on the web, and communicating with others on the internet ... digital citizenship is an enabling factor for *political citizenship...*” (Mossberger, 2008: 173-174)

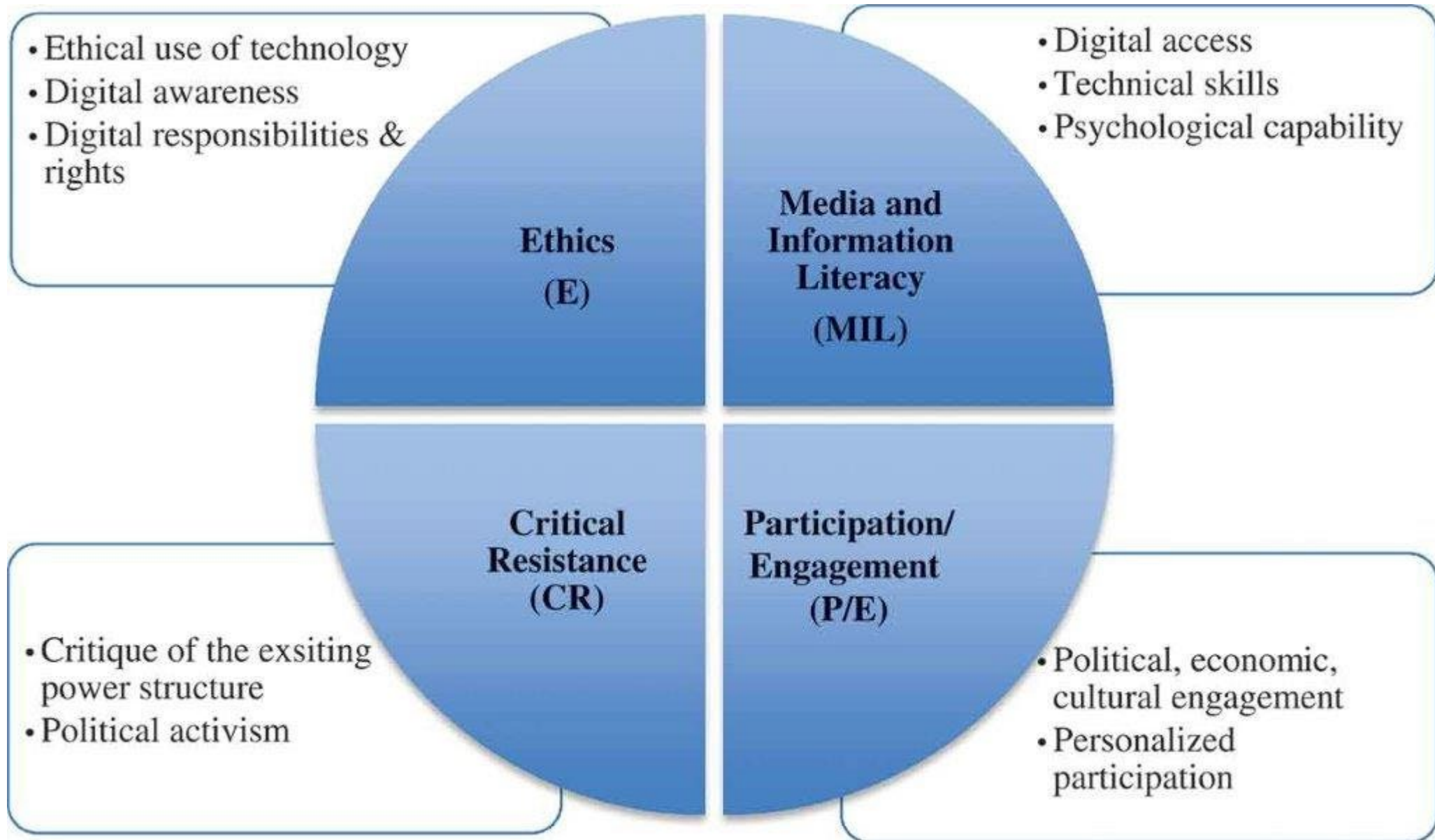
“....digital citizenship, understood as frequent home Internet use with a high speed connection....” (Buente, 2015)

“Digital citizenship represents the capacity to participate in society online through frequent Internet use leading to economic, civic, and political outcomes.” (Buente, 2015)



Literature Review by M. Choi 2016

- A concept analysis to examine how the concept of digital citizenship is constructed
- Literature from the period 2003-2014
- Based on peer reviewed articles as well as official websites, blogs, and news articles
- Based on the results of the analysis Choi defines D.C. as: *“abilities, thinking, and action regarding Internet use, which allows people to understand, navigate, engage in, and transform self, community, society, and the world.”* (Choi, 2016: 584)
- Choi identifies four categories of D.C.



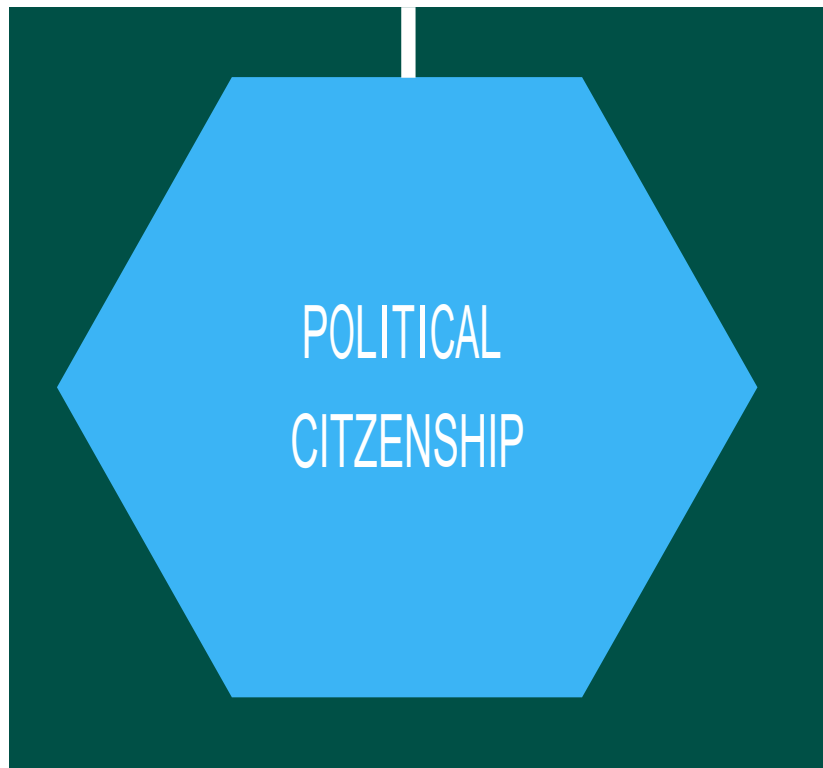
Choi (2016): figure 1, p. 584

A Multidimensional Concept

"Based on these comprehensive and interconnected categories of digital citizenship, the author argues that digital citizenship needs to be understood as a multidimensional and complex concept in connection with an interrelated but non-linear relationship with offline (place-based) civic lives." (Abstract)



Political Citizenship in the Digital Age



- In 2018 I conducted a new literature review on D.C. focusing on the dimension of Political Citizenship
- 58 new publications was identified and together with 22 from the first search the review consists of 80 publications

Searching for

Two aspects of the relationship between governments and citizens:

- 1) Engagement of citizens in policy processes – the political participation perspective
- 2) Interaction in connection to delivery of public services – the e-government perspective



Overall Impression

- Still a new field with very high degree of diversity regarding issues, theories and methods
- 57 out of 80 publications are dealing with the political participation perspective
- 23 publications are dealing with the e-government perspective
- A majority of quantitative studies mainly based on surveys
- The qualitative studies often combine different methods (triangulation)
- 9 studies mix quantitative and qualitative methods (Mixed Method)

Issues Within the Political participation Perspective

- Political participation and E-inequality (23 publications)
- Political communication and mobilization (11 publications)
- Activism and Control (5 publications)
- Public participation in rulemaking (3 publications)
- Stand-alone studies (15 publications)



Political Participation and E-inequality

- R.Q.: Mobilization or reinforcement?
- Digital citizens are more likely to vote. However the social inequality is present (PC 6)
- “We can conclude from the results that this expansion is occurring mostly by way of the greater involvement of young people in politics... However, the results also point out that with the emergence of the Internet its forms of political participation may also retain some of the traditional inequality.” (PC 18)
- Traditional Cleavages or a New World: Does Online Social Networking Bridge the Political Participation Divide? (PC 19)
- Is Online Participation Distinct from Offline participation? A Latent Class Analysis of Participation Types and Their Stratification (PC 50)
- Digital Citizenship or Inequality? (PC 6)
- Digital Citizenship as Multiple Political Participation? (PC 18)
- Virtual Civil Society: The New Frontier of Social Capital? (PC 36)

Activism and Control

- The Arab Spring: mobilization turning into surveillance (DC 34)
- Fighting Corruption in Indonesia (PC 17)
- Public protest and the government's response in China (DC 25, PC 11)
- Life stories as background for activism (PC 3)



Issues Within the E-government Perspective



- Empowerment of citizens (8 publications)
- Development of Citizen Service (7 publications)
- Stand-alone studies (8 publications)

Empowerment of Citizen

- A strong point of departure in the issue of the Digital Divide with a focus on overcoming the barriers
- Other focus on the involvement of citizens in (local) policy making
- No distinct conclusion but an illustration of the multiple dimensions in the concept of D.C.



Development of Citizen Service



- Technical development
- Bureaucrats interaction with citizens
- Citizen's evaluation of the services
- A lack of focus on these issues will result in an exclusion of some groups of citizens

Winding Up

The Political Participation Perspective

The review shows that in some cases, the usage of digital technologies increases political participation of citizens, and in this way enhances democracy.

On the contrary, the review also reveals that in other cases the usage of the technology leads to oppression of certain political attitudes

The E-government Perspective

The same picture pops up in within the e-government perspective. In some cases, the technology enhances the relation between the public authority and the citizens by inviting the citizens to participate in the delivery of public service. While in other cases, the usage of technology by public authorities excludes some citizens from using public services

Thank you for your attention!

